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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: VIVLEMORE, Tracy Ann Art Unit: 1635
Re: Application of: ZHAO, Hong, et al.
 Serial No.: 10/822,205
 Filed: April 9, 2004
 For: **POLYMERIC OLIGONUCLEOTIDE
 PRODRUGS**

 Confirmation No.: 3686

RESPONSE

VIA FACSIMILE 571-273-8300

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

May 15, 2006

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated April 20, 2006, the following remarks are made:

A. RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect to prosecute in this patent application Invention I, claims 1-19 and 21, drawn to an oligonucleotide prodrug having the formula shown in claim 1, classifiable in class 536, subclass 23.1. This response is made with traverse and it is urged that the claims contained in Inventions I-IV be examined together. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Invention I is directed to an oligonucleotide prodrug having formula I in claim 1 and Invention II is directed to an oligonucleotide prodrug having formula (v) in claim 20. Formula I recites X₁, a nucleotide or an oligonucleotide residue; L₂, a spacing group; L₁, a releasable linking moiety; and R₁, a polymer residue. Formula (v) of Invention II recites X₁, a nucleotide or an oligonucleotide residue; L₂, a spacing group; and T, a branched polymer residue.